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CHAL-0606  
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9 April 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR** Deputy Director (Plans)

**THROUGH** : Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P  
Chief of Operations, DPD-DD/P

**SUBJECT** : Recovery of Vlone Bay

**REFERENCE** : Memorandum for DD/P, from Ch SRS/DPD-DD/P,  
Subj: Navy Request for Coverage of Vlone Bay,  
Dated 19 March 1959 (CHAL-0604)

1. At the time of my last recommendation for coverage of Vlone Bay on behalf of the Navy (see reference), I indicated that the Navy would like to have coverage at approximately two-week intervals but that I would be looking into the matter and submitting a separate recommendation pertaining to coverage.

2. This morning I have been approached by the Navy for updating the information on the whereabouts of the four Zebra-class submarines hitherto located at Vlone Bay. My investigation with Navy reveals the following:

a. Admiral Frost himself has initiated the request for coverage.

b. Two other possible sources are being developed though not yet bearing fruit. They may be active in the near future, thus reducing demands on us.

c. There is no magic to the two-week interval. Rather, it is an arbitrary compromise between what is needed, namely daily coverage, and no coverage at all.

d. As I understand it, the knowledge of the whereabouts of these submarines is of sufficient importance to the responsibility

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of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean that lacking knowledge of whereabouts it would have to undertake quite expensive search activity. I am informed that NATO exercises in the Mediterranean are now or shortly to be under way, and the whereabouts of the submarines could have an effect upon those exercises.

3. Recommendation: That coverage of Vlone Bay on the oblique as has been accomplished heretofore be acquired as soon as feasible provided that such activity is not judged to put in jeopardy to any serious extent our capability against the prime target.

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Chief, Special Requirements Staff  
DPD-DD/P

Recommendation in paragraph 3.

**APPROVED:**

10 APR 1959

(sgt) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

**RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.**

Deputy Director

(Plans)

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